(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether benefits will be passed to the consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) In view of recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has already reduced the retail selling prices of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country and thus, passed on benefits to consumers:

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

Progress of IPI gas pipeline project

183. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bi-lateral issues between India and Pakistan concerning the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline have been resolved and that a joint case will soon be put up at the trilateral meeting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a time schedule has been laid by Government for commencement of work on this pipeline; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to enhance energy security of the country, import of natural gas is being pursued from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues concerning the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries, *viz*., Iran, Pakistan and India.

(c) and (d) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the projects. Implementation of the Project will start only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion amongst the countries participating in the Project. As such, a time schedule cannot be laid down.

Reduction in petro-prices

184. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will further reduce the price of diesel, petrol, domestic gas and other oil products in view of the reduction of crude oil price in international market;

(b) whether Government is aware that many petrol pumps are giving less petrol and in some cases petrol pumps are mixing some liquid to get more profit; and